

Persuasion

'I must be ready to hear the name Captain Wentworth at any time now,' Anne thought sadly, 'and I must be ready to meet him again soon, too. I must try to forget my love for him.'

Not many people are interested in Anne. She is the quiet second daughter of Sir Walter Elliot and lives in Somersetshire with him and her sister, Elizabeth. She has only one good friend, Lady Russell.

Years ago, it was different. Then, Frederick Wentworth loved her, and she loved him. But Frederick went into the navy and went away . . .

When his sister and her husband move to Somersetshire, Frederick visits them, and stays, and Anne must meet him. Now, he is different: he is an important man, the captain of a ship. Will he remember her? Does he love her? Or must Anne forget him – again?

Jane Austen is one of the most important of all English writers. She was born in 1775 in Hampshire in the south of England, the seventh of eight children. She only went to school for two years, from when she was seven. After that, she learnt from her father and older brothers. She began to write when she was a child, and finished her first books in her early twenties. She always lived at home with her family and never left the south of England.

Her books are clever, interesting stories about the people of her time. She often wrote about young men and women and love. Her most famous books are *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), *Emma* (1815), *Northanger Abbey* (1817) and *Persuasion* (1818). She died quite young, in 1817. Many people love her books today, nearly two hundred years after she wrote them.

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Persuasion

JANE AUSTEN

Level 2

Retold by Derek Strange
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To the teacher:

In addition to all the language forms of Level One, which are used again at this level of the series, the main verb forms and tenses used at Level Two are:

- common irregular forms of past simple verbs, *going to* (for prediction and to state intention) and common phrasal verbs
- modal verbs: *will* and *won't* (to express willingness) and *must* (to express obligation or necessity).

Also used are:

- adverbs: irregular adverbs of manner, further adverbs of place and time
- prepositions: of movement, further prepositions and prepositional phrases of place and time
- adjectives: comparison of similars (*as . . . as*) and of dissimilars (*-er than, the . . . -est in/of, more and most . . .*)
- conjunctions: *so* (consequences), *because* (reasons), *before/after/when* (for sequencing)
- indirect speech (statements).

Specific attention is paid to vocabulary development in the Vocabulary Work exercises at the end of the book. These exercises are aimed at training students to enlarge their vocabulary systematically through intelligent reading and effective use of a dictionary.

To the student:

Dictionary Words:

- some words in this book are darker black than others. Look them up in your dictionary or try to understand them without a dictionary first, and then look them up later.



Sir Walter Elliot lived at Kellynch Hall with two of his daughters, Elizabeth and Anne.

CHAPTER ONE

Kellynch

Sir Walter Elliot lived at Kellynch Hall, in Somersetshire, with two of his daughters, Elizabeth and Anne. His third daughter, Mary, did not live at the Hall. She met Mr Charles Musgrove; they **married** and Mary went away to live at Charles's home, in the village of Uppercross, not very far from Kellynch.

Sir Walter was fifty-four years old and was a **handsome** man. But he was not a clever man. He only thought about his hair and his moustache, or the colour of his coat or shirt or trousers. He never wanted to think about other things. His wife, Lady Elliot – a beautiful, clever and friendly woman – was now dead. The two girls stayed with their father at the Hall, but they often visited their mother's good friend, Lady Russell, and she often visited them.

Lady Russell lived in another big house, not far from Kellynch Hall. She loved her friend's three daughters very much, but she loved the second daughter, Anne, more than the other two. Anne was a pretty, but very quiet young woman. She was the cleverest of the three girls. She liked thinking; she liked talking to other people; she liked reading good books. But her father loved Elizabeth and Mary more than he loved Anne. He never talked about things with her. He wasn't interested in her. For Sir Walter, Anne was . . . Anne was only Anne.

Elizabeth looked after the Hall with its big gardens and beautiful park, and Anne helped her. Mary sometimes came to visit them.

Sir Walter, their father, never wanted to think about

money. He liked buying new things for the house. He liked buying new jackets and shoes. He liked driving in expensive new **carriages**. But he never asked, 'Where does the money come from? How much money have we got?' He did not like thinking about it.

So, after some years, the Elliot family didn't have much money. Sir Walter spoke to Elizabeth about it. Elizabeth spoke to Lady Russell about it. She asked Lady Russell to help them.

'What can we do?' she asked her mother's old friend.

'I do not know, but I can ask my friend Mr Shepherd,' Lady Russell answered. 'He is clever with money. He can help us.'



Lady Russell came to the Hall with her friend, Mr Shepherd. They talked to Sir Walter and to Elizabeth.

'You must leave Kellynch Hall,' Mr Shepherd told them. 'This big house is too expensive for you. You must go and live in a smaller house.'

They all looked at Sir Walter. He was very quiet. He said nothing for a minute or two, but then he answered.

'Yes. You are right. We must leave Kellynch Hall and find a smaller house to live in. Perhaps we can look for a house in Bath. It is not very far from here, and I like living in Bath. It is a beautiful city. A lot of interesting, rich families live in Bath, you know!'

Anne listened. She was not happy. She did not like Bath — she remembered her three unhappy years at school there, after her mother died. But they didn't ask Anne. Sir Walter was not interested in Anne. They were going to leave her beautiful home, Kellynch Hall. Bath was going to be her new home.



'You must leave Kellynch Hall. This house is too expensive for you.'

One day soon after this, Mr Shepherd was in Taunton, a town quite near Kellynch Hall. He met a man called Admiral Croft there, and his wife, Mrs Croft. The Crofts had no children and they were rich. Admiral Croft and his wife wanted to find a big house in Somersetshire, near Taunton.

'I am in the **navy**,' the Admiral told Mr Shepherd, 'but I have a holiday now for some months and I want to take a nice, quiet house near here for our holiday.'

Mr Shepherd told Admiral and Mrs Croft about Kellynch Hall. They were very interested. They wanted to see it.

'When can we visit Sir Walter Elliot and see his house, do you think, Mr Shepherd?' asked Mrs Croft.

Mr Shepherd asked Sir Walter the same question and the Crofts visited the Hall with Mr Shepherd one afternoon, a week later, for tea. They met Sir Walter, Elizabeth and Anne and they all sat together and had tea. The Admiral and his wife liked the house and its gardens very much – they asked many questions about it. Mr Shepherd wanted to know more about the Crofts too, so he asked them some questions.

'And, you know, Sir Walter,' Mr Shepherd said later, 'Mrs Croft comes from Somersetshire too. Her brother lives quite near Kellynch, she said. But what did she say her brother's name was, now? I cannot remember.'

Anne listened. She waited and then said quietly, 'Mr Wentworth is his name, I think.'

'That is the name! Mr Wentworth! Thank you, Miss Elliot.'

Anne stood up suddenly and walked quickly out, into the garden. She was excited; her face was hot and red and she did not want the other people in the room to see.

'In a few months, perhaps, *he* is going to be here . . . at Kellynch!' she said quietly.



Mrs Croft had two brothers. One of her brothers lived near Kellynch, in Somersetshire, but her second brother was a young **officer** in the navy. His name was Captain Frederick Wentworth.

Some years before, in the summer of 1806, the young Captain Wentworth came to stay with his older brother in Somersetshire. He was a very handsome, clever and strong young man. He met Anne, a pretty young nineteen-year-old girl, and the two young people soon fell in love.

They were very happy together, but only for a short time. Captain Wentworth spoke to Sir Walter one day.



The Crofts visited the Hall with Mr Shepherd one afternoon, for tea.

'Your daughter, Anne, and I are in love, sir,' he said. 'We are very happy together. I am here to ask you, Sir Walter, for your daughter's hand. We want to marry.'

Sir Walter did not say 'yes' or 'no'. He was cold and unfriendly to Captain Wentworth and he was not interested in his daughter, Anne. He did not want to help her to marry the young man she loved. He did not want Anne to be happy.

Lady Russell wanted Anne to be happy but she too did not want Anne to marry Captain Wentworth – she thought Anne was too young. Anne was only nineteen. And Captain Wentworth had no money. She wanted Anne to wait and find a richer, more important man to marry, not a young officer in the navy. Anne listened carefully to Lady Russell. The older woman's **persuasion** slowly began to work. Slowly, Anne started to think her love for Captain Wentworth was wrong.

'Perhaps I *am* too young,' she thought. 'And perhaps I cannot help Frederick to be happy. I must think of his work in the navy – perhaps he can do better without me. Perhaps Lady Russell is right – I know she loves me and is my friend.'

She saw Captain Wentworth one last time that summer. Her face was very sad. 'I am very sorry, Captain Wentworth,' she said to him, 'but I cannot marry you.'

'But we are happy together, Miss Elliot!' he answered. 'I do not understand this. Why . . . ?'

'I cannot say,' Anne answered, 'but that is my last word. We cannot marry.'

Captain Wentworth left Kellynch Hall that afternoon, and soon he left the country. He went to sea again in his ship.

Anne changed. She was quieter. Her pretty face was often sad. She loved Captain Wentworth. She was not going to marry Captain Wentworth, so now she did not want to marry anybody.



'I am here to ask you for your daughter's hand. We want to marry.'

For more than seven years, Captain Wentworth did not come back to England. He was now a rich man, and he was going to be in Somersetshire again – perhaps at Kellynch Hall, with his sister, Mrs Croft!

CHAPTER TWO

Uppercross

Sir Walter and Elizabeth moved to live in a house in Bath early in September. Admiral and Mrs Croft were going to arrive to live at Kellynch Hall later that month.

Anne's younger sister, Mary, was ill, so Anne did not go to Bath with her father and her older sister in September. She went to Uppercross to stay with Mary and her husband, Charles, for some weeks. She was going to help Mary with her two young children.

Lady Russell drove Anne to Uppercross in her carriage.

Uppercross was a beautiful old English village, about three miles from Kellynch Hall. Charles's mother and father, Mr and Mrs Musgrove, and his two younger sisters lived in the biggest house in the village, and Charles and Mary lived in another smaller house near there, Uppercross Cottage.

Anne liked the Cottage, with its garden of flowers and fruit trees. Anne liked Mary's husband, Charles, too, and she liked Charles's two younger sisters, Henrietta and Louisa. They were pretty girls, nineteen and twenty years old. They liked dancing and singing and meeting new people. They were happy, friendly girls. And they liked Anne very much.



Anne liked the Cottage, with its garden of flowers and fruit trees.

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On 29 September, Admiral and Mrs Croft arrived to live at Kellynch Hall. Soon after that, the Crofts came to visit the Musgroves in the big house and Mary and Anne at the Cottage one afternoon. Charles was not at home, but Mary sat and talked to the Admiral and Anne talked to Mrs Croft.

Suddenly, Anne heard the Admiral say to Mary, ‘One of Mrs Croft’s brothers is coming to stay with us soon at Kellynch Hall, you know.’

‘Which of Mrs Croft’s brothers is that?’ asked Mary. ‘I understand she has two.’

‘Yes,’ the Admiral started to answer, ‘that is right. It is . . .’

But he did not finish his answer. Mary’s two little boys wanted him to go and play, and they pulled him away to another corner of the room.
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Mr and Mrs Musgrove came to have dinner at Uppercross Cottage that evening, with Henrietta and Louisa. Henrietta came with her mother and father in their carriage, but Louisa wanted to walk to the Cottage through the park, and she arrived at the Cottage first.

‘Mrs Croft’s brother, Captain Wentworth, is back from sea and Mrs Croft says he is coming to stay with them soon at Kellynch Hall,’ said Louisa, excitedly. ‘Did the Crofts tell you that when they were here this afternoon? Mother says he is a very handsome young man – he was here in Somersetshire seven or eight years ago, she says, and he is now an officer in the navy!’

Some minutes later, Mr and Mrs Musgrove arrived with Henrietta, and they all talked for some time about the visit of Captain Wentworth to his sister at Kellynch Hall.

‘I must be ready to hear the name of Captain Wentworth

at any time now,’ Anne thought sadly, ‘and I must be ready to meet him again soon, too. I must try to forget my love for him.’
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Three or four days after this, Captain Wentworth arrived at Kellynch Hall. Mr and Mrs Musgrove **invited** him and the Crofts to come to dinner with them at Uppercross a week later.

Charles and Mary went to the big house for dinner, too. Anne stayed with their two children at the Cottage. So Charles and Mary met Captain Wentworth for the first time. Charles invited him to visit them the next day at the Cottage and so it was there that Captain Wentworth and Anne met again after more than seven years.



He came in, her eyes met his, he gave a small polite smile.

She heard his voice outside the door, he came in, her eyes met his, he gave a small **polite** smile; the other people in the room – Mary, Henrietta, Louisa – all wanted to talk to him. Charles came in and said something to him and then the two men left.

Henrietta and Louisa left a minute or two after them, and Anne tried to listen to Mary. She tried, but she heard nothing. The only words in her head were 'He was here! He was here! In this room!'

From that day, Captain Wentworth and Anne were often together in the same room. He never talked much to Anne but she listened to him often with the other people in the house. He talked a lot to Henrietta and Louisa – they often sat next to him and they asked him about the navy and about his visits to other countries. They liked listening to his stories of the sea. He was a very handsome man and, after some days, Anne saw, the two young girls were in love with him. They laughed a lot together and he was happy to be with them. With Anne, he was always quiet and polite, but he was not warm or friendly and he never laughed with her.

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Soon, Captain Wentworth was at Uppercross four or five times a week. One morning, he came into the sitting-room of the Cottage, and found only Anne there with one of Mary's children. The child was ill. Usually, other people were in the room with him and Anne, but that morning only Anne and the child were there.

'Oh, I am sorry, Miss Elliot,' he said. He stopped near the door. 'I thought the two Miss Musgroves were here.'

Then he walked quickly to the window and looked out. He had nothing more to say to her.

'They are coming in a minute, I think,' said Anne.



He talked a lot to Henrietta and Louisa. They liked listening to his stories of the sea.

She wanted to stand up and run out of the room. She did not want Frederick to be polite and cold to her!

'But I must stay in the room and talk to him,' she thought.
'What can I say to him? And what can he say to me?'

Suddenly, Mary's younger child, Walter, ran into the room and jumped up on Anne's back.

'Carry me! Carry me, please!' the child sang.

'No, Walter. I do not want to play with you now. Please get down. You are heavy.'

The child did not move. He did not want to get down. He wanted a game. He stayed on her back.

'Walter, please . . .' Anne tried again.

But the child did not move.

Suddenly, Captain Wentworth walked across the room from the window, took the child off her back and carried him away.

She was **amazed**. She forgot to thank him – no words came.

'He helped me!' Anne thought. 'Why? He watched me and he came to help me.'

Captain Wentworth sat in another corner of the room with the child and played with him. Then luckily Mary and Henrietta and Louisa came into the room and Anne left quickly.

It was a small, unimportant thing, but Anne wanted to think about it.



It was autumn. The trees were brown and yellow in the park of the big house at Uppercross.

For the next week or two, Anne was often with Captain Wentworth and Henrietta and Louisa Musgrove. They walked in the park or along the small roads to other villages



Captain Wentworth walked across the room, took the child off her back and carried him away.

near Uppercross. Anne watched and listened but she thought Captain Wentworth was not in love with Henrietta or Louisa. He liked them, but he was not in love with them, she thought.

One afternoon, because the weather was warm and sunny, they went for a longer walk than they usually did. They were not far from Kellynch Hall. They were all quite tired, so they stopped and sat down under a big tree for some minutes. Suddenly, they saw Admiral Croft and his wife in their small carriage in the little road near them. Mrs Croft saw them and the Admiral stopped his carriage.

'You have a very long walk back to Uppercross and it is quite late,' said the Admiral. 'Can we take one of you with us? We can easily take one more in the carriage, you know.'

Henrietta and Louisa were not very tired, so they said 'No, thank you.' Mary said 'no', too.

Mrs Croft turned to Anne and said, 'You are tired, Miss Elliot. I can see. You must come with us in the carriage. We can very easily take you.'

Anne smiled and was going to say 'No, thank you' but Captain Wentworth turned and looked at her quietly. Then, without a word, he took her arm and helped her up into the Crofts' little carriage.

Again, Anne was amazed, and again she forgot to thank him. 'He saw I was tired, so he put me here!' she thought.

The Admiral drove off along the road to Uppercross with his wife and Anne. Anne talked and answered their questions without thinking, but then they began to talk about 'Frederick' and Anne listened.

'I think it is time he found a wife now,' said the Admiral. 'He likes those two Musgrove girls, but the question is which of the two?'



Without a word, he took her arm and helped her up into the Crofts' little carriage.

'Yes, which? They are very pretty girls, but I do not think he is in love with them and it is not easy to say which he likes most,' answered his wife.

CHAPTER THREE

Lyme

For two or three days after the long walk and the drive in the carriage with the Crofts, Anne did not see Captain Wentworth at Uppercross. He was away. He went to visit his old friend Captain Harville in the town of Lyme, by the sea, seventeen miles from Uppercross. When he came back, he told them about the beautiful small town of Lyme.

It was November now, but the weather was quite warm. Captain Wentworth talked about going back to Lyme for some days to be with his friends there. The other young people at Uppercross all wanted to go too. Louisa was the most excited about going to Lyme. She asked her mother and father about it and they said 'yes'.

They went in two carriages. The four young women – Mary, Anne, Henrietta and Louisa – went in a big carriage, and Charles and Captain Wentworth drove in a smaller carriage, behind them. The two carriages arrived in Lyme after twelve o'clock, so there was not much time to see the town that afternoon. They went first to find rooms in a small hotel. They asked for their dinner to be ready at seven o'clock, then they all walked down to the sea together.

They walked past Captain Harville's house, near the beach, and Captain Wentworth went inside to say 'hello' to his friends there. The others went down to the beach. There was

a long sea **wall** there, called 'The Cobb', and they walked out along it. Soon, they saw Captain Wentworth with three friends, on the beach, coming to meet them. Captain Wentworth was with Captain Harville and his wife, and another young officer in the navy, Captain Benwick. They all met on The Cobb and walked back to the Harvilles' house together.

Anne and Henrietta were the first people to be up early the next morning, so they went for a short walk down to the sea together before breakfast. The wind from the sea was cold in the early morning but it was another beautiful November day. After some time, they turned to go back to the hotel, and there on the beach they saw Captain Wentworth. They all walked back to the hotel together.

At the door of the hotel, they met another **gentleman**, coming out. His carriage waited by the door. They didn't know him. He was about thirty years old – not handsome, but he had a nice face. He moved back quickly and opened the hotel door for them very politely.

'Thank you, sir,' said Anne. She looked at the polite gentleman and she saw in his eyes that he thought she was beautiful.

Anne was very pretty that morning, after her walk in the early morning by the sea. Captain Wentworth saw the quick look in the polite gentleman's eyes, too, and he looked more carefully at Anne.

His eyes suddenly seemed to say 'Yes, you are beautiful this morning. This is the same Anne Elliot I knew and loved more than seven years ago.'

At breakfast, Captain Wentworth asked one of the people in the hotel about the gentleman at the door.

'Can you tell us his name?'

'Yes, sir,' the man answered. 'That is a Mr William Elliot.'

A very rich gentleman, sir. He arrived by ship last night, from Sidmouth. He's going from here to Bath, and then to London, I think, sir.'

'William Elliot!' said Mary. 'That must be our **cousin**, Anne! And here in the same hotel with us! He is going to be the next head of the Elliot family, when father dies, you know, Captain Wentworth.'

'I am happy to know that the next head of the family is a gentleman . . .' Anne said, but she left her words unfinished because Captain and Mrs Harville and Captain Benwick arrived and took them for a walk in Lyme.



They walked first through the streets of the old town. Then Louisa said she wanted to walk along The Cobb again, so they all went back to the beach. The Harvilles did not come with them – Captain Harville had a bad leg and he was tired, so they stopped at their house. Captain Benwick walked on with them to The Cobb.

The wind was quite strong on the sea wall, so they all went down to the beach below it. Louisa wanted to jump down from the wall and Captain Wentworth gave her his hand to help her. She smiled and jumped, but she did not catch his hand and she fell. Her head hit the beach, hard. She did not move. They all stood, without speaking.

Then Henrietta started to cry, 'Louisa! Louisa!'

'She is dead!' said Mary, her face white.

Captain Wentworth took Louisa's head in his arms. His face was as white as Louisa's. Charles and Anne took Henrietta's arms and helped her to sit down before she, too, fell.

'Somebody help me, please,' said Captain Wentworth.

'Help him! Help him!' said Anne. 'Leave me. I can easily look after Henrietta. Help Captain Wentworth with Louisa, quickly.'



Captain Wentworth took Louisa's head in his arms.

Captain Benwick and Charles moved quickly to help Captain Wentworth.

'A doctor,' said Anne. 'We must get a doctor.'

'That is right. A doctor,' Captain Wentworth said.

'I know where the doctor lives,' said Captain Benwick, and he started to walk quickly along The Cobb to the beach and to the town.

'What can we do for her, Anne?' Charles asked.

Captain Wentworth turned to Anne for help, too.

'We must carry her to the hotel, slowly and carefully,' said Anne.

They started to carry Louisa slowly along the sea wall. When they were outside the Harville's little house, the door opened and Captain and Mrs Harville came out quickly to help them.

'You must bring her in here. The doctor can come here to see her,' Captain Harville said.

They put Louisa into Mrs Harville's bed and the doctor soon arrived. He looked carefully at the cut on Louisa's head.

'No, she is not dead. But this is a very bad cut,' the doctor said. 'She must stay in bed for two or three weeks. She must not move from her bed.'

So Louisa stayed with the Harvilles at their little house in Lyme and Charles stayed at the hotel in the town – he wanted to be near his sister and to help Mrs Harville with her.

The others went back sadly to Uppercross in the carriage.



Anne had only two more days at Uppercross. Two days later, Lady Russell came to take her to Sir Walter and Elizabeth's new house in Bath.

It was a dark day with rain in the sky when Anne drove away from Uppercross with Lady Russell, to Bath. They



They put Louisa into Mrs Harville's bed and the doctor soon arrived.

knew, from one of Elizabeth's letters to Lady Russell, that Mr Elliot, the gentleman at the hotel in Lyme, was now in Bath.

'And I hear he is a very handsome young man, Anne,' said Lady Russell. 'It is going to be very interesting to meet the next head of the Elliot family, I think.'

Anne did not say a word.

CHAPTER FOUR

Bath

Sir Walter's house in Bath was in Camden-place, one of the best streets in the city. Many rich and important families

lived in Camden-place, so Sir Walter and Elizabeth were happy.

Anne's father and sister were happy to see her and show her their new house. They told her about their new friends in Bath, about the people they did or did not want to know in Bath, about the teashops and other good shops in Bath. They did not ask about Uppercross or Kellynch. They were only interested in Bath. Anne listened politely.

'And our cousin, Mr Elliot, came to see us too, Anne,' said Elizabeth happily. 'He arrived in Bath some days ago and called to see us. Father did not much like him when he was a younger man, but now he is a nice, handsome young gentleman, and Father likes him very much. He is staying in Bath for the winter, too.'

'He came to visit us four or five times last week,' said Sir Walter. 'Had dinner with us last Thursday. A very polite young man.'

Anne listened to all this.

'Why does Mr Elliot suddenly want to know my father and my sister?' she thought. 'Why is he suddenly interested in us after all this time? Perhaps it is Elizabeth he is interested in, and not Father.'

All through dinner they talked about Mr Elliot, and suddenly, after dinner, Mr Elliot arrived to visit them. When he came into the room, he was amazed to see Anne there, but very happy to meet her again.

'Miss Anne Elliot! My cousin! And we were in the same hotel together in Lyme! I am very happy to know your name this time,' he said.

He sat down with them and they talked about Lyme and the hotel there and Anne told him about Louisa's accident.



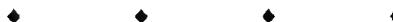
Anne's father and sister were happy to see her and show her their new house.

He stayed for an hour. He liked sitting and talking to Anne – the time went very quickly!

The winter weeks went by, and Anne got to know Mr Elliot better and better. She did not understand why he was suddenly interested in them after ten years without knowing them, but she slowly started to like him. He was always friendly and polite to her – sometimes too friendly and too polite perhaps, she thought.

Her friend, Lady Russell, liked Mr Elliot. She thought he was interested in Anne and was perhaps in love with her. Perhaps he was the rich and important husband Lady Russell wanted to find for Anne? Anne did not think this. She told Lady Russell one day that she was not interested in marrying Mr Elliot.

Anne also met an old school friend, called Mrs Smith, and started to visit her quite often. Mrs Smith was ill and did not go out much – she had no money. Her husband was dead and she lived very quietly in two small rooms not far from Camden-place. Anne always liked visiting Mrs Smith. Lady Russell often took her to Mrs Smith's house in her carriage, and then Anne sat and talked to her friend all morning. Mrs Smith was a clever woman and was always happy and friendly – she never talked about her illness to Anne.

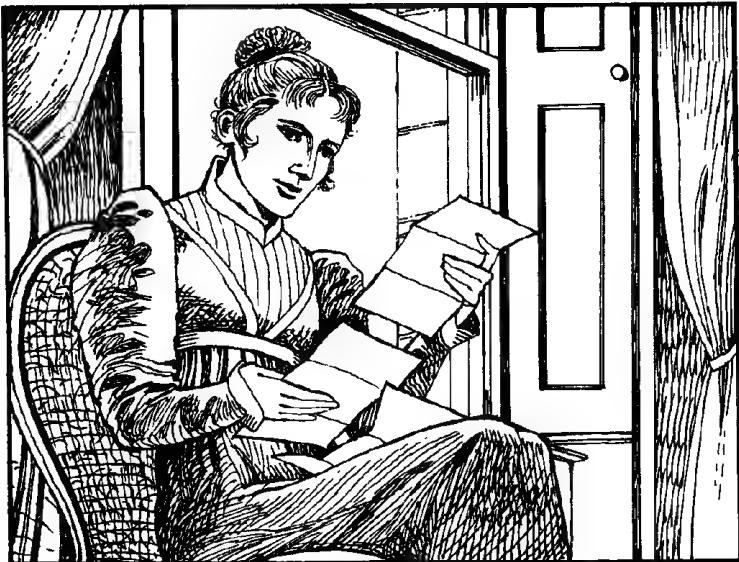


February came. One day, a thick letter came from Mary in Uppercross, too. It came to Bath with Admiral and Mrs Croft. They were in Bath for some weeks because the Admiral wanted to see a doctor there, and to visit some old friends from the navy.

Mary's letter told Anne that Louisa was better after her accident, but that she was in Lyme with the Harvilles. Louisa and the young Captain Benwick were in love, Mary said, and Captain Benwick wanted to marry her.



Mr Elliot was always friendly and polite to her – sometimes too friendly and polite perhaps.



'So Louisa is not going to marry Captain Wentworth, you see.'

'So Louisa is not going to marry Captain Wentworth, you see. And we all thought that Captain Benwick was in love with you when we were in Lyme, but we were wrong,' Mary wrote.

Anne was very happy for Captain Benwick and Louisa. She was also happy to know that the Crofts were in Bath now ... and to know that Captain Wentworth was not going to marry Louisa.

The Crofts came to visit them and Anne often saw the Admiral and his wife walking in the town. She saw that they

were always very happy when they were together. One day, after a visit to her friend Mrs Smith, Anne met the Admiral in the street outside. The Admiral walked back to Camden-place with Anne and they talked about Captain Benwick and Louisa.

Suddenly the Admiral said 'All this is quite unlucky for Frederick, you know. My wife and I thought Miss Musgrove was in love with him, but she was not. We are thinking of inviting him to come and stay with us here in Bath. Do you not think, Miss Elliot,' the Admiral asked, 'that we must get young Frederick to Bath?'

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The next time Anne went out into the town, she saw Captain Wentworth. She was in a small teashop, near the window, when suddenly Captain Wentworth walked in with some of his friends. He saw her and his face went quite red: she saw in his eyes that he was at the same time amazed and sad, but perhaps happy to see her again. He spoke to her and then turned quickly away and spoke to one of his friends, but he was not cold and he was not friendly to her. After a minute or two, he turned to her again.

'You are going home, I see, Miss Elliot, but it is raining and you have no coat. Can I help you to find a carriage? You cannot walk home in the rain.'

'Thank you, Captain Wentworth, but no. I am going with Mr Elliot, my cousin. He is walking home with me. Ah, here is Mr Elliot now.'

Captain Wentworth remembered Mr Elliot very well: the man outside the hotel in Lyme, looking at Anne in the early morning and thinking she was beautiful. Mr Elliot came in quickly, and because of the rain, he wanted to leave the teashop quickly, before it rained harder. She only had time quickly to say 'Good morning to you' to Captain Wentworth,

before she was out in the street, walking home with her hand under Mr Elliot's arm. But many questions about Captain Wentworth danced in her head! Was he unhappy about Louisa's marriage to Captain Benwick? Was he happy to see her in the teashop? How long was he going to stay in Bath with his sister?

Nothing happened for a day or two, then an important friend of Sir Walter invited all the Elliots to go to the **theatre** one evening.

They arrived early at the theatre and waited by one of the fires inside. Suddenly, the door opened and Captain Wentworth came in. Anne was nearest to him.

'How do you do?' she asked when he saw her. He stopped and they talked for a minute or two about the weather in Bath and about the Crofts. Then they had nothing more to say, but he did not leave her. Suddenly, he started to speak again – about Louisa's accident and her love for Captain Benwick. 'He wants me to understand that he was not in love with Louisa at Uppercross and in Lyme,' she thought. 'Is he trying to tell me that he loves me?' she thought.

When they went into the theatre, Anne walked without seeing anything, without hearing anything; she was very, very happy. Mr Elliot sat next to her, but it was difficult to listen to him, to talk to him, to think. Captain Wentworth was with his friends, quite near them, and she knew that he watched her with Mr Elliot – she saw his face change when he saw them together. He did not like to see her with her cousin, the polite Mr Elliot. For a minute she was happy that he did not like it. She knew now that he loved her after all this time, but then she thought 'I must show Frederick that I do not like this cousin, this Mr Elliot, that he is nothing to me. But how can I tell him?'



'Is he trying to tell me that he loves me?' she thought.

The next afternoon, Anne went again to see her friend, Mrs Smith. She wanted to tell her all about the evening at the theatre. She knew her friend liked to hear everything.

'I know you had a very good evening, Anne,' said Mrs Smith. 'I can see in your eyes that you are happy today, that last night you were with the man you love more than all the world.'

Anne's face went red. How did Mrs Smith know about Captain Wentworth?

'But, please tell me, Anne,' Mrs Smith went on, 'does Mr Elliot know about me? Does he know that I am in Bath?'

'Mr Elliot?' Anne asked. 'Do you know Mr Elliot?'

She suddenly saw Mrs Smith's mistake: her friend thought that Anne was in love with Mr Elliot.

'Yes, I know William Elliot very, very well,' Mrs Smith said quietly and sadly. 'And I can see that you are in love with him, that perhaps you are going to marry him.'

'Marry Mr Elliot?' Anne was amazed. 'I am not going to marry Mr Elliot! It is not Mr Elliot that I...' She stopped. 'Why did you think that?' she asked.

'Because I know you are often together, and I know some of your friends here think the same thing too.' She suddenly smiled again. 'But I am very happy to hear that you are not in love with Mr Elliot and that you are not going to marry him.'

'Why are you happy about it?' Anne asked, and so Mrs Smith told her about Mr Elliot.

'He is a cold, dark man,' she said. She was angry now. 'When I was young, before my husband died, Mr Elliot was my husband's best friend. My husband loved him – I know that he often helped Mr Elliot with money. Mr Elliot always

wanted money. He only wanted to be rich, so he married a girl from a rich family. But he did not love her – her money was all he wanted. When Mr Elliot had a lot of money, he turned away from my husband; he didn't want to know him. When my husband was ill and when he died, he left me with no money. Mr Elliot did not want to help me or hear about me. Then last year, his wife died too, and he had all her money. The next thing he wanted was to have an important name, to be "Sir William Elliot", the head of the Elliot family. So he came back to Somersetshire, to Bath, and tried to get to know your father and sister again. He is only interested in William Elliot. He is never interested in other people. He is a very bad man.'

Anne listened to Mrs Smith's story and she read some



Her friend's story was all true. Mr Elliot was a very bad man.

letters from Mr Elliot to her friend and to her dead husband. She saw that her friend's story was all **true**. Mr Elliot was a very bad man.

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She went home. She was happy that Mr Elliot was away from Bath for a day or two – there were a lot of things to think about, and she must tell Lady Russell the story about him. She must ask Lady Russell to help her. But when she arrived back at Camden-place, she had no time to think. She found that Charles and Mary were there – they were in Bath for ten days.

Elizabeth talked about giving a big dinner for them, with some of their new friends in Bath, the next day. She sat down and wrote letters inviting people to come to the dinner and she invited Captain Wentworth to come too, ‘because he is one of Charles’s friends,’ she said.

The next morning, Anne went to visit Mary at the hotel she and Charles were in. Other people were there too. Captain Wentworth was there, at a desk in one corner of the room, writing a letter. He finished and stood up, ready to leave. Suddenly he pushed the letter across the desk in front of Anne’s eyes and then quickly left the room. The letter was to ‘Miss A. E. –’. Anne fell into a chair near the desk, opened the letter and read:

‘I must speak. I cannot go on without knowing. My love for you is not dead – I cannot love anybody but you. Why do you think I am here in Bath? For you. What do I think about all day? You. You must see that I am waiting for you – after eight and a half years now, I am here waiting for you. Please do not tell me that I am too late. F.W.’



Captain Wentworth was there, at a desk in one corner of the room, writing a letter.



They talked about the love they now knew they had.

Anne did not move or speak. She was white. The others saw her white face. 'You are ill, Anne,' said Charles. 'I must find a carriage and take you home to Camden-place,' but Anne did not want to go in a carriage. She wanted to walk. She wanted to try to see Captain Wentworth in the street, to answer his letter with a word or a look. She wanted him to know, now, that she loved him, too.

They were in Union-street when they saw him. He turned and saw them when Charles called to him 'Captain Wentworth!' He stopped and came across the street. He did not look at Anne.

'Are you going up to Camden-place, perhaps?' Charles asked. 'Can you walk with Miss Elliot? She was not well at our hotel and now I am taking her home for an hour or two before the dinner this evening. But I must be at the gunshop in the market square in ten minutes. The man there wants to show me a new gun. Perhaps you can take my place and walk with Miss Elliot?'

Captain Wentworth smiled, said 'yes', and in half a minute Charles turned and left them. They started to walk slowly up the street together, Anne with her hand under Captain Wentworth's arm. They began to talk. After another minute, they turned together into a little garden, and sat there together to talk about the sad story of the past eight and a half years. And in all the years after that morning, they never forgot what happened in that garden and the things they said. They talked about the past four or five months, of Uppercross, of Henrietta and Louisa, of their days in Lyme and of the love they now knew they had.

By the time Anne and Captain Wentworth arrived back at Camden-place, they were two of the happiest people in the world.

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Anne and Captain Wentworth were to be married in the spring.

When Mr Elliot heard this, he soon left Bath – he did not want to marry Elizabeth, and he knew that Anne knew his story from her friend, Mrs Smith. Lady Russell, too, started to like Captain Wentworth. She wanted most to see Anne happy. She saw now that Captain Wentworth loved Anne and that Anne loved him – that all Anne wanted in the world was to be the wife of this handsome young officer.

EXERCISES

Vocabulary Work

Look back at the 'Dictionary Words' in this story. Do you understand all of them?

Write sentences using these groups of words:

- a to marry/handsome/officer/navy
- b cousin/invite/theatre
- c polite/gentleman/persuasion
- d amazed/true
- e carriage/wall

Comprehension

Pages 7–17

1 Write the names of the people in these two families.

a Sir Walter Elliot's:

- eldest daughter
- second daughter
- married daughter

b Mr and Mrs Musgrove's:

- married son
- daughter
- other daughter

2 Who said these words? Who to? What does the speaker mean?

- a 'A lot of interesting rich families live in Bath, you know!'
- b 'He is clever with money. He can help us.'
- c 'I am here to ask for your daughter's hand.'
- d 'Mother says he is a very handsome young man.'

3 Look at the picture on page 11. How many people can you name in the picture? (Don't count the man with the teapot.)

Pages 18–29

- 4 On page 20 and again on page 22 Captain Wentworth shows he is interested in Anne. How does he show this?
- 5 When Louisa had her fall, who did what?
 - a Captain Wentworth went to get a doctor.
 - b Charles and Anne held Louisa's head.
 - c Captain Benwick and Charles took Louisa into their house.
 - d Captain Benwick said 'She is dead!'
 - e Captain and Mrs Harville helped Henrietta to sit down.
 - f Mary helped Captain Wentworth with Louisa.

Pages 29–44

- 6 On page 30 it says: 'Mr Elliot was amazed to see Anne but very happy to meet her again.' Where did he meet her the first time?
- 7 'I am very happy to hear that you are not in love with Mr Elliot and that you are not going to marry him.' Who says these words? Who is she speaking to? Why is the speaker against Mr Elliot?
- 8 Where did Anne first see Captain Wentworth in Bath? And the second time? And the third time? And the fourth time?
- 9 This story happens in four different places: Kellynch (K), Uppercross (U), Lyme (L) and Bath (B). In which of the places did these things happen? Write K, U, L or B.
 - a Louisa had a very bad accident.
 - b Anne first fell in love with Captain Wentworth.
 - c Anne met her cousin outside a hotel.
 - d Captain Wentworth wrote to Anne and told her that he loved her.
 - e Captain Wentworth and Anne met again after a long time.

Discussion

- 1 'Captain Wentworth is the most interesting of the people in this story.' Is this true? What do you think?
- 2 '*Persuasion* is a very sad story.' Is it 'sad'? What do you think?

Writing

- 1 Write a short 'word-picture' of one of these people: Sir Walter Elliot, William Elliot, Mrs Smith. Use the story and the pictures.
- 2 You are writing *Persuasion* for television or radio. What did Anne and Captain Wentworth say to each other in the little garden on page 43. Write their words.

Review

- 1 Did you like this book? Why or why not?
- 2 Was the language easy or difficult for you?
- 3 Are you going to tell your friends to read *Persuasion*? Why or why not?